

Replies to Julian.

Editor Enterprise.

In reply to an article appearing in your paper of Thursday, the 12th, signed Julian and headed "As It Was: As It Is" and sub-headed "A True Story," would like to say a few words in behalf of the members of company D, Third Texas Infantry, U. S. V. I believe I am as well acquainted with the facts as anyone, having kept up with the workings of the captain, lieutenants and privates since their enlistment.

Julian has written an unnecessary article with the intention of showing Smith a hero and a martyr and says it would be more coming if those boys who are out and those trying to get out of the service would acknowledge their mistake and say they are tired of their job. This I deem an unjust criticism. They have all done their duty. If I remember right they were sworn in for two years unless sooner discharged, and by that I mean they have the right to file their application for discharge, now that the question of war is virtually settled. You could not have given one of them a discharge while reinforcements were being sent to the front; you would have insulted each and everyone of them by so doing; but as several regiments have already been mustered out, and one to be not seventy-five miles from here, the First U. S. volunteer infantry at Galveston, shows very clearly that the government wishes to get rid of some of her men as she has no further need of them, so why should our boys be questioned as to their right of being discharged? They have made no mistake; they are not tired of their job; they are not posing as heroes or martyrs, but as men having done their duty. They have suffered more hardships and have gone through more unnecessary experience than any company in the regiment.

[Brief History as to the Organization of the Beaumont Light Guard.]

On the evening of July 29 about fifty of Beaumont's young men met at the opera house to announce their intention to form an infantry company and to apply for admission into the Texas Volunteer Guard. The meeting was called to order by Mr. D. H. McLeod and he announced the purpose of the meeting. Hon. H. W. Greer was unanimously elected chairman and addressed the meeting and explained to the young men all that it meant to take the oath of allegiance and told them clearly what they must endure and pictured to them the rewards they could win by earnest, conscientious efforts. Then the Rev. Walter L. Smith of St. Mark's (Episcopal) church in a five minutes talk spoke of the trials and tribulations, the hopes and fears through which the average militia company would have to pass before they could hope to stand at the top of the ladder. Finally Mr. Smith moved that the chair instruct the secretary to notify the governor of the meeting held and the intention to form a militia company in Beaumont.

The next meeting was held on August 5, 1897, at the Wiess hook and ladder hall and went into permanent organization. The chairman being absent Mr. F. Wyche Greer was appointed temporary chairman. Interesting correspondence was read from Adjutant General Mabry and Lieut. Davis Riles. Then followed the election of commissioned officers. Walter L. Smith was elected captain by acclamation, his vote being unanimous. J. Romaine Ricker was unanimously elected first lieutenant. Messrs. Chenaunt O'Brien, D. D. Henderson and D. H. McLeod were nominated for second lieutenant. Mr. Henderson asked that his name be withdrawn and the election between Messrs. O'Brien and McLeod be done by ballot. Mr. O'Brien was elected. It was moved, seconded and carried that Mr. O'Brien's election be made unanimous. The company as a body was then sworn in by Mr. C. T. Heising. Later on Captain Smith tendered his resignation as captain, due to the fact that it had been urged upon him by his sons best known to him. His resignation was accepted and J. Romaine Ricker elected to fill the vacancy. The office left vacant was filled by the election of Second Lieutenant O'Brien. Mr. R. D. Simonton was elected second lieutenant. Later on Lieutenant Simonton tendered his



Motherhood

THIS event in the life of a woman is looked forward to with a feeling of joy and horror—because the little one is not welcome, but because the mother dreads the dreadful consequences of agonizing labor should not before her like a hideous nightmare. An improper delivery, followed by child-bed fever, may end these scenes in a few short days, leaving the little one motherless. But there is another side to the picture. If women who are expecting to become mothers will commence the use of the greatest female tonic, Gerstle's regularly as directed a few weeks before confinement, and continue its use until the organs are restored to their normal condition, the hours of labor will be shortened, the pain lessened, and recovery complete.

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resignation and Sergeant Blaine elected to succeed him, which position he still holds.

Several days before war was declared the Beaumont Light Guard offered their services to the governor, both by letter and telegram, sent and signed by me. There were none who did not see their way clear to serve their country. True a good number of them could not go. Reasons only known to them kept them from going. Fathers and mothers protested on account of age and had they gone they would have been rejected by being underage and without consent. Others had dear ones dependent upon them. My friend "Julian" says that among their number was the captain, who could not see his way clear to serve his country, and many people were inclined to censure him. I am quite sure no one censured me for not going, as I was not in a position to leave my wife and family to care for themselves, as at the time I did not have the means in case of an emergency to provide for them. (As I will show later on that Captain Smith, who succeeded me, did not draw a cent of pay for three months after he had enlisted.) Finally I received a communication from the adjutant general asking how many men I could furnish. I called a meeting at once and told each member what was on tap. I explained to them what was about to take place, at the same time told them I could not join them, as circumstances prohibited me from leaving my family. They decided to offer their services to the United States. There was nothing left for me to do but resign. Walter Smith was elected captain and the adjutant general was telegraphed to that night that they were willing to volunteer their services in the war with Spain.

Walter Smith has always had a love for military life. Being a lay reader and a student of theology did not prevent him from accepting a position which paid him in one month more than he received in one and a half while in charge of his mission here.

Several weeks before war was declared Mr. Smith knew his position was to be filled by an ordained minister, and this mission converted into a parish which would throw him out of his position. This being the case my friend would possibly be without work for some time, but the chance for captain was open to him and he accepted. "No wonder he gave up his church work to become captain of the Beaumont Light Guard and hero of the hour." I do not blame Walter Smith; I would have done the same thing had I been in his position. I have nothing against him, he has always been a friend to me and I to him. Had it not been for the commission in the Enterprise I refer to I would not have come to the aid of my friends who are now anxious to be discharged and to return to their several vocations without telling the public why they have enough. I believe Walter Smith has tried to do his duty and has succeeded as well as any captain in the volunteer service. I do not believe public opinion has given the reports said about Smith a hearing, and if it had not been resurrected by my opponent nothing more would have been said or thought about the matter. I believe I could stand before the shrine of heaven and take an oath that Walter Smith has never been intoxicated, never gambled (I do not think he knows one card from another, which is fact and never uttered an oath in his life, and furthermore never consciously acted in any way undermining an officer. He is guilty of any act against the articles of war which his private friends tell I believe

he should be given the full extent of the law.

There is a book called the Blue Book, which every officer in the United States army should know. Without said knowledge they are placed in very peculiar positions. An army officer has to be shown, compelled to do on account of ignorance and are often imposed upon. I have found whenever anything is required a demand is to be made. You can not wait to be invited or asked, I might say.

After arriving in Austin the boys began complaining about their fare not being fit to eat. Of course they should kick, and I was the captain's place to see that their men were well provided for. While at Key West there could be heard on the quiet that several of the boys wanted to get out. It will be remembered that Captain Merrill, the commander at the post, was anything but an agreeable officer, and showered upon the soldiers of the Lone Star state duties he did not dare to put his own command to do. For instance, companies D and M were required to do all the guard duty that was done—out of all the regulars at the post four were about all who did duty in twenty-four hours, and they had the easy part by staying at the guard house—but the two Texas companies were required to furnish nine men each.

After the guard had been dismissed the regulars would report to the provost sergeant and he would send them to their quarters, while our boys would be imposed upon and put to doing fatigue duty, and among the duties they were obliged to perform was to clean up the regulars' quarters (which they, the regulars, should have done themselves).

They were put to work digging holes for telegraph poles, unload heavy ordnance from barges to cars, and then pull the cars to the new fort by hand, a distance of half a mile. All this they had to do alongside of prisoners—work which they were not obliged to do. Here is where the volunteer officer is imposed upon—bluffed into being studied and wrapped about one's finger. There was no use for all this unnecessary hardship. If I did not have the backbone to fight for my men and see that they got what was due them I would have resigned. I would never have entered to a man who wore the same stripes I wore because he was an army officer—because he was negligent in caring for my men. I would not protect him and let my men suffer.

"Captain Smith was still ready and willing to go to Cuba, and soon fault was found with the captain for the first time." That was his privilege, of course, and dare say many others too would not mind going if they received \$150 per month with prospect of staying in the service a longer time. But Captain Smith did not want to go to Cuba. The United States was good enough for him even when the battle of Santiago was going on, so I have it on good authority.

I notice "Julian" said nothing about the trip to New York on board the transport San Marcos. Who was to blame here? Plenty of meat but no beds to sleep in. On the second day all had to be thrown overboard. No more water and not the necessities for a six days' trip. Some lay it to Merrill, but I lay it to the captain in charge in not having his men provided for before leaving. First of all the order should be to go to New York, if we went from the west, find the transportation, and next the troops. Our boys had two days of eating ration and should have had ten. Who didn't their captain provide the required ration? It is the known fact long it takes to get to New

York? The fact was he did not know what to do about it. Even when they arrived at Montauk Point our boys were without supplies and were hungry. The captain went to Merrill and told him his boys needed food. Merrill said we have overdrawn our supplies and if we made requisition for more it would look as if we had been negligent. So the captain went his way, and had it not been for a lieutenant in the company who told Merrill his men must have supplies—and he was also told they could not make a requisition for more food because it would show negligence on their part. The lieutenant said, "Don't be negligent; my men must have something to eat, and I will see General Wheeler." He saw General Wheeler and got the supplies.

Now tell me, do you blame the boys for wanting to get out? If Smith had had as much back bone as Lieutenant O'Brien the boys would never have suffered as they have or undergone so many unnecessary hardships.

Yes, all the boys are fond of Lieutenant O'Brien and will follow him wherever fighting is to be done. He has fought more than one battle for them alone and single handed at that, and dare say a great many more that will never be known. He has done his duty. The war is over, his services are no longer needed. The next step he must take is his professional career, which if taken at the ebb will lead on to fortune. My advice to him is to leave the army and complete his university studies and then branch out on life's great journey. We will all help him to make his profession a success and give him a helping hand when he is about to stumble.

I wish to see them all discharged from the service and return home for they have done their duty, and if they should be called upon to give their services to the United States again they will all respond as willingly as they did at first.

I did not intend to injure Captain Smith, but I believe in giving that which is due to those who are worthy. He is a gentleman, and I trust when the war is over he can conscientiously turn to his chosen profession.

Let the Beaumont Light Guard be reorganized by the boys returning from the field of honor. I will be with them and never leave them to another's care again.

There is a great deal more that could be said but will leave it for some other time in case I am required to say more.

J. ROMAINE RICKER,
Ex-Capt. Beaumont Light Guard.

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WANTED—To buy a good young milch cow, Jersey preferred. Apply to Steam Laundry. 10-15-1wp

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FOR RENT—Furnished room, second story. Call at Hall's Restaurant. 10-17.

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FOR SALE—Four lots cheap in South end of town. Apply to W. H. Fox, corner of Buford street and Sabine ave. 10-10-1w

FOR SALE—Or trade for lumber—A pair of center crank connected Sterns Manufacturing company slide valve engines, 15x18, each complete with governors, etc. Would prefer selling together. Sold because too small to do work required. Address, Hunt County Oil Company, Wolfe City, Texas. 8-2

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The cost of announcement for county offices in the Enterprise is \$10, payable strictly in advance. This rule, will not be varied for anyone.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.
Though the heavens be decked with cloud or sun,
In friendship's bonds we are but one.
Our burdens strike we all must tote,
And now kind friends I ask your vote.

W. L. Rigsby,
for re-election of justice of the peace for precinct No. 5, Jefferson county, Texas, at the coming election to be held on the second Tuesday in November, 1898.

COUNTY JUDGE.
TIM DAILY ENTERPRISE is authorized to announce the name of Geo. C. O'Brien as a candidate for County Judge.

We are authorized to announce the name of P. A. Dowlen as a candidate for county judge of Jefferson county, and he will appreciate your support.

SHERIFF.
We are authorized to announce the name of R. D. Simonton, Jr., as a candidate for the office of sheriff of Jefferson county.

COUNTY TREASURER.
We are authorized to announce the name of Lip Norvell as a candidate for re-election as county treasurer of Jefferson county.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.
We are authorized to announce the name of A. E. Broussard as a candidate for re-election to the office of County Attorney of Jefferson county.

We are authorized to announce the name of S. M. Johnson as a candidate for county attorney.

We are authorized to announce the name of C. W. Macene as a candidate for County Attorney of Jefferson county.

COUNTY CLERK.
We are authorized to announce the name of Lee Blanchette as a candidate for re-election as county clerk of Jefferson county.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.
We are authorized to announce the name of Jack Ward as a candidate for County Commissioner of Precinct No. 1.

We are authorized to announce the name of Leroy King as a candidate for justice of the peace in Precinct No. 1.

We are authorized to announce the name of Captain W. E. Rogers as a candidate for county commissioner of Precinct No. 1.

FOR CONGRESS.
We are authorized to announce the candidacy of Sam Bronson Cooper for re-nomination as the democratic candidate to the Fifty-sixth congress from the Second Congressional district.

J. H. LACK,
THE TAILOR.

RETURNS TO BEAUMONT.
After an absence of thirteen months I have returned to Beaumont and reopened a tailor shop in the rear of Western Union telegraph office in the Stangle building. While away I have worked in some of the best tailor shops in some of the larger cities of the United States and also took a six weeks' course in Webb's Cutting School at Minneapolis, which is considered one of the best in this country and am therefore much better prepared to make good fitting and stylish clothing than ever before.

I respectfully request my old customers and all others who contemplate having fall clothes made, to call on me before placing an order elsewhere.

J. H. LACK,
Rear of Western Union telegraph office.

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Kerosene stoves 1 burner 55c, 2 burner 80
Egg beaters 2c and 10c each
Toilet paper 8 for 25c
Stoves, Gasoline, 2 burners \$3.25
Towel rings 10. Child's brooms 7c each
Oyster friers, 10c only
Reflector lamps only 25c each
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